



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT MEDIA ALERT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES *Saving Lives and Protecting Property*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 2.11.2005

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CHEMICAL BURN SURVIVOR THANKS FIREFIGHTERS FOR NOT GIVING UP

WHAT: HFD EMS holds reunion with chemical burn survivor and firefighters. Fire Chief Phil Boriskie and EMS Physician Directory Dr David E. Persse will give brief remarks.

WHEN: Monday, February 14, 2005, 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Station 23, 8005 Lawndale (at the Broadway intersection, key map 535B)

DETAILS: Just before 3 a.m. on August 29, 2004, chemical plant worker Christopher Williams, 26, was standing on top of a 14-foot rail car depressing the hose when the line became disconnected releasing 98 percent sulfuric acid. With sulfuric acid burns on 55 percent of his body, the former Marine, had almost decided to give up his fight to stay alive, but the HFD Firefighter/Trainee in the HFD ambulance with him wouldn't let him. "I was fading in and out of consciousness, but he kept me hanging on."

Williams said he had two more reasons to live, after his nine-month pregnant wife walked into the ER to see him. He works daily to regain his strength. "I was in the hospital for two months and was released October 21, 2004. I am fully self sufficient, and I don't look like Freddy Krueger. I had six surgeries and am supposed to make almost a full recovery. I am sure this has a lot to do with the urgency the firefighters worked with. Once again thank you all!"



<http://www.houstontx.gov/fire/firestations/station23.html>